

Inside this Issue

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Word From Ed • '98 AIRS Conference |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New AIRSLetter • Miller Leaves EPA • Revision of AIRS Web Pages |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Website Features |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name - Address - Fax! • Security Plan • Reinventing Enviro Info |

AQS News

- | | |
|----|---|
| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQS Re-Engineering Status |
| 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My First AIRS Conference • Secured Monitors • Discoverer |
| 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for New AQS • New AQS Reports • AQS Program Mod for PM10 |
| 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM2.5 Data Reporting • New Null Data Code |
| 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing of Inactive Monitors • 102 Sites Deleted |

AFS News

- | | |
|----|---|
| 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIRS Conference/AFS • AFS Conference Web Site |
| 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFS Year 2000 |
| 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFS Training Update • Improving SV Reporting • OC Developing ICR to OMB |
| 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCI System Update • 1996 PEI |
| 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIIP to Revamp SCC Codes |
| 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer EI Workshop • Status of Title V Permits |
| 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important Memos |

- | | |
|---|---|
| C | Contacts:
General AIRS
AQS
AFS Emissions
AFS Compliance
AFS Toxics
AFS Permits |
| L | Special Link:
Oracle Discoverer,
"Explore New Dimensions" |

US EPA
 OAQPS, ITPID, IMG
 MD-12
 RTP, NC 27711

AIRSLetter

A Word from Ed

-Ed Lillis

Greetings from the entire AIRS staff. We hope this newsletter is informative. I'd like to draw your attention to Lillian Bradley's article (page 11) about AIRS and the Year 2000 problem. I'm sure you have all heard more than you care to know about Y2K, but we want to make sure those who transfer data to and from AIRS are aware of our plan to address Y2K. Please let us know if you have any concerns or foresee any data transfer problems. Thanks.

'98 AIRS Conference – San Francisco

-Jerry Husketh



The 9th National AIRS Conference held April 27 thru May 1, 1998 was probably the best one yet. Clearly, the 310 people attending gave it their all. Even those not with our conference gave it their best! Well, enough about that.

The caucuses were a hit! There was lots of input, questions, ideas, discussions and hopefully satisfying results from the summaries. And contrary to what managers back home might think, the Golden Gate State Park and Fisherman's Wharf, didn't lure the attendees away from the sessions. The AIRS crowd proved it again: We're a hard working crowd!

From the suggestions on the evaluations, I still need to make improvements in my planning. Maybe this is where you can help. We use your input on the registration forms to determine the size of the room and how many chairs and tables to set. That would work IF we get a registration form AND if it's accurate AND if it's timely. With 28 persons registering at the conference and 64 registering in the 30 days before the conference, it's hard to predetermine room sizes. So, what's the point? Please submit your registration forms early so that we plan room layouts better. I promise to do better if you will, too.

The question was raised about the possibility of serving juice and fruit in the mornings. EPA rules prohibit us from paying for this. At the normal charge of \$3 for a glass of OJ (\$18/carafe serving 6 glasses), serving 310 persons for 5 days, would come to nearly \$5,000 with taxes and gratuity added. A gift this size from the hotel is unlikely. Please understand my dilemma in providing an early start to our meetings.

This brings me to next year's conference. We have approval to go to ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI in 1999. It's a great town! Safe, walkabout, reasonably priced, easy to get to from all over the country. We're still negotiating with the hotels so that announcement will come in the next AIRSLetter. Plan now to meet me there for another great conference!

New Format and Distribution of AIRSLetter

-Bonnie Johnson

Beginning with this issue, there will only be two issues per year of the AIRSLetter. We expect to make much greater use of the Web, in particular the TTN-AIRS section. The AIRSLetter will be in html format, as well as a pdf version for downloading, and "clickable" from the index that will be on most TTNWeb-AIRS pages. Our planned production dates are June and December of the year. See the following article on the revision of AIRS web pages for related information.

*

Revision of AIRS Web Pages

-Bonnie Johnson

Have you been having trouble finding AIRS information and data on the Web? There's plenty of information "out there", but as it has grown, it's gotten unwieldy. So, the Information Transfer and Information Management Groups (ITG and IMG) are in the midst of redesigning the structure of AIRS information on the Web. In general, information directed to the public will be found under the AIRS Home Page (www.epa.gov/airs).

The more technical information directed towards the state and local agencies and EPA staff will be found under the TTNWeb-AIRS page (www.epa.gov/ttn/airs). Each page will include a link to the other page. We hope this new structure will serve all of our user communities better.

The AIRS web site will include the AIRS Executive and AIRS Executive Plus products as well as AIRS Graphics and the current queries and reports accessible from AIRSWeb. (The AIRSWeb site is expected to undergo a name change to avoid the confusion with the AIRS web site.) The ITG will be restructuring and maintaining the AIRS web site.

The TTNWeb-AIRS page will include an index with links to items such as:

- Policy and Guidance Memos issued by EPA concerning AIRS
- AIRS User Manuals for downloading
- AIRSLetters, past and present
- Conference Info
- Technical Forums
- Detailed Data Queries and Reports
- Re-Engineering Info
- System specific info:
 - AQS - Air Quality
 - AFS - Emissions
 - AFS - Compliance

The IMG will be creating and maintaining the TTNWeb-AIRS web site. We can use the TTNWeb-AIRS web site to make information available quickly because it is on the TTN web and not designed for the general public. Pages such as those on Contacts and General Descriptive information will be "shared" by the AIRS web site and the TTNWeb-AIRS web site. (Maybe we can keep those E-mail addresses more current if we only have to update them once.) Our schedule is to have the site revision online by the end of July. We're working hard on it!

Note from Michael Hamlin: The conventional dial-up to the TTN will not exist after June 30, 1998.

*

Miller Leaves EPA

-Jonathan Miller

I regret to say that this was my final contribution to the AIRSLetter as an employee of the EPA. As most of you may have heard by now, I am working with a software development company in Research Triangle Park. I will continue to be involved with the AIRS database, so don't think that you have gotten rid of me that easily! I would like to take this time to say "THANKS" to all the hard working people in the EPA Regional Offices, State and Local Agencies, EPA Headquarters, and to the many friends of the Information Management Group for the many years of friendship and cooperation that were given to me. Leaving the group and the AIRS community is like leaving home. But after seven years in EPA, now seems to be an appropriate time for a change.



New Website Features and AIRS PC Products

- Tom Link



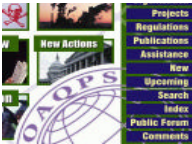
AIRSWeb <http://www.epa.gov/airsweb/>

Easy access to key measures of air pollution that EPA uses to assess the Nation's air quality. New sorting, tabular display and export features!



OAR Website <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>

Your one-stop Website for information about indoor and outdoor air quality, stationary and mobile sources of air pollution, radon, acid rain, stratospheric ozone depletion, and pollution prevention. New look and features!



OAQPS Website <http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/>

Making information about air pollution available to the public, as part of the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards' primary mission of preserving and improving air quality in the United States. AIRSWeb featured here!



AIRNOW Website <http://www.epa.gov/airnow/>

Providing real-time air pollution data and other air pollution information in an understandable, visual format.



AIRS Executive Version 2

(Download from <http://www.epa.gov/airs/aewin/>)

PC software that lets you explore summaries of air pollution data for the United States and 50 nations. Many new functions and international data included now.



AIRS Executive Plus CD-ROM

CD-ROM version of AIRS Executive, including more years of AIRS data and additional EPA databases including the National Emissions Trends (NET) Database and more. Details at the AIRS Executive website address above.

AIRS Graphics on the Web

Coming this winter--many of your favorite AIRS Graphics maps and charts can be created with any web browser--details and updates coming soon at the AIRS Website!

Name - Address – Fax!

-Virginia Ambrose

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who have taken the time to review the AIRSLetter CONTACTS list, FAX list, and EMAIL list emailed to you. So many changes have occurred within the past year . . . people moving their offices to other locations, contacts being replaced, telephone area codes changing, people getting new Internet connections!

Your information is constantly being called up on the INTERNET and always needs to be up to date. Customers are referred to the Contacts List for your region and state information. Please take time periodically to review your state contacts for revisions and send this information forward for update (ambrose.virginia@epa.gov). Thank you.

*

The Security Plan

-Michael Hamlin



Informational material for the Security Plan was developed to briefly outline the security measures for AIRS and request the support of all AIRS users in complying with these measures. The security measures for AIRS are intended to protect from unauthorized modification or loss, the air quality, emissions and compliance data that state and local agencies periodically submit to EPA. It also protects the underlying computer system that EPA operates. This material will be distributed to the all AIRS users. Please help us continue to insure the integrity of your data.

*

Reinventing Environmental Information (REI)

- Bill Frietsche

The purpose of this article is to give you a quick overview of USEPA's Re-inventing Environmental Information (REI) Initiative. Most of what follows was taken directly from USEPA's REI Action Plan dated November 25, 1997. The executive summary explains the concept of REI as follows:

"At the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Council Meeting held on July 21, 1997, Administrator Carol Browner and Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen announced that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would pursue three important information management reforms:

- (1) Establishing key data standards to improve the value of environmental information and enabling data sharing and integration;*
- (2) Providing universal voluntary access to electronic reporting to reduce burden and improve data quality and timeliness; and*
- (3) Implementing these data standards and electronic reporting reforms in the Agency's national systems in partnership with the States through the One Stop Program.*

The One Stop program is designed to provide a forum for the EPA/State partnership and to support State implementation of REI."

The REI initiative will enable EPA to integrate data from different media, support and encourage voluntary access to electronic reporting, develop an environmental reporting system (One Stop), and improve dissemination of environmental information to the public.

Thirteen national systems are currently included in this effort. They are:

Permit Compliance System (PCS)
National Compliance Data Base (NCDB)
OECA Docket (Docket)
RCRA Information System (RCRIS)
Aerometric Information Retrieval System / Air Quality Subsystem (AQS)
Aerometric Information Retrieval System / AIRS Facility Subsystem (AFS)
Biennial Reporting System (BRS)
*CAA 112(r) Risk Management Plan Information system (RMP*Info)*
CERCLA Information System (CERCLIS 3)
Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)
Toxic Release Inventory System (TRIS)
Water Quality Information System (STORET)
Envirofacts Data Warehouse (EF)

These systems will follow the requirements outlined in the REI Action Plan, and implement the data standardization requirements following their promulgation.

Six priority data standards are the foundation for REI. They are:

- Year 2000 Date standard
- Facility Identification
- Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code
- Latitude/Longitude
- Biological Taxonomy
- Chemical Identification

Workgroups have been formed and are working on all 6 of the standards. There are four phases of standard development, which are:

- (1) developing interim standards,
- (2) developing business rules and promulgating final standards,
- (3) establishing central EPA support program (e.g. guidance, training), and
- (4) implementing the standards and business rules in EPA's national systems.

Interim standards have been developed for the first 4 standards, the other 2 will have interim standards developed by the end of the calendar year. All standards should be implemented in the national systems by the second quarter of 2003.

The participation of State and Local agencies, who provide data to EPA, are critical to making REI work. With this in mind, EPA in cooperation with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), has formed an ECOS/EPA Information Management Work Group. States should forward their comments through ECOS.

One Stop grants, demonstration projects, and EPA-State agreements are some of the mechanisms that EPA's Office of Re-invention is using to build stakeholder involvement and partnerships with States (and Tribes). There is a lot of information about the REI program available. The REI Action Plan is available, as well as data standards. A first place to look is on EPA's Internet Web site. You will find a lot of information about the initiative, as well as EPA contacts. [<http://www.epa.gov>]

We encourage you to understand the REI initiative and to participate as appropriate. The goal of REI is to improve all of our abilities to manage environmental data, and improve everyone's access and understanding of

AQS News

AQS Re-Engineering Status and Plans

- Jake Summers

As AIRS Conference attendees and users that have visited the re-engineering page and schedule on the Web at www.epa.gov/airs/reeng/aqsplan.html know, the schedule changed as we got further into the development of the project. At the most recent project status meeting, January 1999 is the time when we expect to have the system ready to perform training, freeze the current AQS, and convert and load the new Oracle database. We expect to get the Technical Advisory Committee and State users more involved as we get further into the design of specific reports, design and scheduling of the training, and begin beta testing.



The status of specific individual products is as follows:

Interim Database: This database has been available since mid-December and is available on the web at www.epa.gov/airsweb under "Query". The data was refreshed in early April and will be refreshed again in July. While this database is not as current as the IBM AQS database, it does provide easy access to detailed data queries and statistics.

Data Conversion/Correction : The data conversion process has been used to supply data for the interim database. A similar conversion process will be done for the final database in 1999. This conversion has identified errors that must be corrected in the current AQS in order to load the data in the new database. To date, some of these errors have been corrected by our office and some have been distributed to the RO AQS contacts. These errors could actually have been caused by the conversion from SAROAD to AQS in 1987. The conversion and load process will not correct the data automatically. When the next refresh is done in July, any new or already identified errors will be distributed for correction. Please contact me with questions or for assistance in data correction.

Beta Testing: This process will begin in November as the software for the new AQS is released from internal testing and is distributed to the beta testing group. This testing will involve updating and retrieving data from both the current AQS and the new system to evaluate performance, updated data, and retrieval capabilities. The software will become available in individual functional areas and will require testing with real data. If you were not involved with earlier beta testing but would like to get involved, please contact Bonnie Johnson to sign up.

Production: After the beta testing and necessary modifications have been completed, the last update to the current AQS system will be announced and performed. After this update, database will be frozen and the conversion process and transfer to the new AQS database will begin. We expect this to occur in January 1999. As the database is being converted and loaded, user training will also be performed. When the production database is loaded, it will completely replace the interim database.

Training: User input from the conference has been very helpful in designing the training. Please read the article from Mike Letke on the current training plans.

In summary, we expect to have a busy summer and fall preparing for the implementation of the new system.

My First AIRS Conference

- Tami Laplante

I was pleasantly surprised at the quality of participation from the large group of AQS people attending the AQS sessions of the AIRS Conference. This was my first AIRS Conference and it was grand! Of course, having it in San Francisco added to the charm.



My roll as the "T-shirt lady" gave me a sense of great power and I thank you all for making the t-shirt giveaway and the conference such a great success. (Maybe next year, I'll be promoted from T-shirt lady to a real presenter!) I enjoyed meeting all of you and look forward to seeing you in St. Louis

P.S. If I promised you a t-shirt but haven't delivered, please let me know. laplante.tami@epa.gov or (919) 541-1915)

*

Secured Monitors

- Jake Summers

The re-engineered AQS is being developed with goal of making all data in AQS available to the public. AQS will no longer store data from "secured monitors." The conversion of the data currently stored under secured monitors must be addressed by each State currently using this capability. If you do not want the data converted, please consider removing the data or contacting me to discuss other options.

*



... the saga continues.

- Bonnie Johnson

The last AIRSLetter included an article about Oracle Discoverer (an end-user querying tool) and the patch that was to fix our problem with using it over the Web. If you were at the AIRS Conference, you probably heard from Larry Ramsdell and Kelda Gunderson (both from Oracle Corporation) that version 3.1 was coming out soon.

Good news: **Version 3.1 has been released!** The latest word from Oracle is that we should receive our first four copies by mid-July. Our Oracle account representative is trying to get us a copy sooner. Oracle has also offered to send Ms. Gunderson to our site for the initial installation.

Assuming our problem is solved, we will order copies for those of you that previously received a copy of the tool from us. We are also attempting to get an extended year of support for those copies and will advise you of Oracle's decision as soon as possible. If you ordered your own copy from Oracle, you may want to call in your upgrade request now. If you or your agency plans to order additional copies but have not yet done so, we suggest that you wait until we have tested this new version before placing your order.

If you are interested in reading more about this tool and its latest version, here's an article directly from Oracle: "[Oracle Discoverer, Explore New Dimensions](#)." Feel free to E-mail me with questions about Discoverer at johnson.bonnie@epa.gov or call me at (919) 541-2469. (E-mail is preferred. Thanks.)

*

Training for the New AQS

- Mike Letke

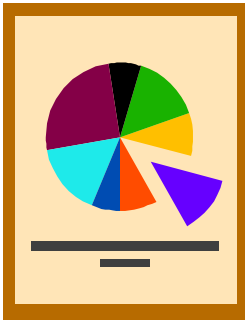
Videos, on-line tutorials, satellite . . . What is the most effective way to train people for using the new AQS? Do we give training in the regions and when should this be done? These are some of the questions we tried to answer at the AIRS conference. It all gets down to many choices, yet so little time (and money).

We do plan to conduct hands-on training in the Regional Offices - most likely in January 1999. We will firm up schedules as we get close to that time. Since the conference, we have been exploring the "not-on-site" training. I have been working on getting estimates of the resources and dollars needed to develop such things as an online tutorial. We are meeting with the training folks and should know by September or so what we will do. I will keep you posted on our progress. (Later, a good place to look for this information will be on the TTNWeb-AIRS web site at www.epa.gov/ttn/airs.)

*

Report on the New AQS Reports

-Mike Letke



Being that this was my first AIRS conference, I was curious as to the input I would receive from users about the reports. Many times I have given presentations only to have the audience not get involved and not give input. Fortunately, I did not have this problem when I talked about the reports at the AIRS conference. I quickly found that users have *definite* ideas as to what they think should be done!

Although I only had a few reports to display from the new AQS, we had a lively and detailed discussion on those and other reports. One of the biggest things to come out of this presentation, was that we will start using the Output Subteam again. This group was originally lead by Jonathon Miller and reviewed the reports in the current AQS to determine what needed to be kept/discarded and changes to be made to the reports for the new AQS. Since the conference there has not been much activity on the reports because the contractor, OAO, has not been ready to tackle that portion of the system.

This however, is about to change. I will shortly be getting in touch with the members of the Output Subteam to work on the new report formats. I look forward to working with this group and will be talking to each of you soon. If there are others who have ideas on reports, please feel free to call me at (919)-541-0773

*

AQS Program Modification for PM10

- Michael Hamlin

The Air Quality Subsystem (AQS) is being modified so it can process data for the parameter 85101 (PM10) for local conditions in the same manner as data is presently processed for parameter 81102 (PM10) adjusted to standard conditions. The Edit, Correct, Scan, and Update programs are all being modified in accordance with regulation in 40 CFR part 50. This modification also allows the reporting of negative concentration values for 88101 (PM2.5) for continuous instruments. Users may input 85101 data now, but the Edit program will reject the monitor (F3) transaction that is PM10 specific until mid-July when the revised AQS Edit, Correct, Scan, and Update programs are in production. (The 85101 input data will remain in your screening file.)

*

PM2.5 Data Reporting to AQS

- Jake Summers

The Geographical/Common Subsystem tables have been updated to allow reporting of ambient PM2.5 data to AQS. The new regulations require the reporting of PM2.5 concentrations in local temperature and pressure conditions rather than standard temperature and pressure. To accomplish this reporting, a new parameter code "88101" has been registered. The unit code for local temperature and pressure is "105".

In April, several interim PM2.5 method codes were updated. Since the AIRS Conference, five measurement methods have been designated as reference and have also been updated in the collection and analysis file in GCS. Also, to report the additional information specified in 40 CFR Part 50, Table L-1 Summary of Information To Be Provided By the Sampler, additional parameter, method, and units codes have been assigned. The parameter codes are in the range "68101" to "68109". The valid method and unit codes are registered in the collection and analysis file. Please contact me if you have any questions. (Reference: [Email Memo from Jake Summers to all RO AQS Contacts on 4/2/98, Subject: PM2.5 Data Reporting to AQS](#))

*



New Null Data Code

- Jake Summers

A new null data code has been added to Geographic/Common Subsystem to be used for ozone data reporting in the current AQS. The new 8-hour standard allows users to count missing days toward the minimum 75 percent completeness requirement in demonstrating attainment. Meteorological data, or ambient measurements from nearby monitoring sites, may be sufficient to demonstrate that missing ozone data at a particular monitoring location would not likely have exceeded the level of the standard. Additional EPA Guidance will be provided in the future on this process. When the 8-hour standard is implemented in the re-engineered AQS, this new null code will be used to compute the data completeness. (Because the 8-hour standard will not be implemented until the re-engineered AQS is installed, this new null data code will only represent missing data in the current system.) Also, as specified in 40 CFR Part 50, Appendix I, the Regional Administrator must approve the decision to count the missing data toward completeness. Guidance will also be provided on how this will be done in the new system. The new code and description are:

9966 Missing ozone data not likely to exceed level of the standard

Also, remember that different null data codes will be used with the re-engineered system. If you have any questions, please contact me.

*

Closing of Inactive Monitors

- Bonnie Johnson

Before Jonathan Miller left our group, he began a project with David Lutz to identify and then close inactive monitors in AIRS AQS. We have continued work on this project as time allowed. We have completed our analysis of sites for each agency. Agencies with monitors that appeared to be inactive were sent a list of such monitors with potential sampling end dates or a suggestion that the monitor be deleted. Much of this work has been completed, but a recent check indicates that a number of agencies have not yet taken any action. We will continue to assist with this work as necessary. In the next several weeks, we will be following up with you on this project. Obviously, we want to complete this effort before the re-engineered AQS goes into production. If you need assistance in applying sampling end dates or deleting monitors, please give Michael Hamlin a call at (919) 541-5232 or email (hamlin.michael@epa.gov). He is responsible for managing the current AQS system

*



102 Sites Deleted From Database

- Jonathan Miller

One hundred and two sites were deleted from AQS since these sites had no monitors associated with them. EPA Headquarters worked in conjunction with the EPA Regions affected to coordinate this effort. A listing of the deleted sites can be found in the IBM TSO Dataset "*JKIAIRA.DELSITES*".

The sites were deleted since they had no monitors associated with them. Consequently, this would cause an invalid relationship in the new AQS Oracle database (the new model requires a minimum of one monitor be established for a site in order for a site to be valid). The following states (with the number of sites in parentheses) were affected: Alabama (1), Alaska (6), California (2), Idaho (1), Kentucky (1), Maine (7), Michigan (1), Minnesota (1), Montana (47), New Jersey (4), New York (1), North Carolina (3), North Dakota (1), Ohio (5), Oregon (2), Pennsylvania (1), Washington (2), Wisconsin (8), Puerto Rico (6), and the Virgin Islands (2).

*

End of AQS Section

AFS News

AIRS Conference/AFS Sessions

- Chuck Isbell

A **big** thank you to all who participated in the AFS portion of the AIRS Conference! We had a very good group of attendees this year. (Wasn't San Francisco just great!) We just couldn't host the conference without your support. Special thanks to all those folks who gave presentations, came early or stayed late to attend training on Monday or Friday, and took time during lunch or break to visit the PC Demo Room.

This conference can take credit for the first for several new features, such as the whole day of AFS training (including hands-on) that was presented on Monday. Based upon the feedback we received, the full day of training was a big hit. Even the hands-on lab session, where we shared the PCs in the demo room, went well. We also experienced a good turn out for the other two concurrent training sessions held on Monday, "Using IDEA for AFS Retrievals" and "AFS General Overview". Additionally, the following two training sessions were presented on Friday: "Compliance Data Quality" and "SV Tracking".

This year we provided twice as much caucus time (5 vs. 2.5 hours) as before. (We slipped an additional caucus in Wednesday's schedule.) You may recall that Wednesday's caucus focused on "Data Use & Data Quality" and Thursday's caucus "Initiatives." In addition to the two caucuses, a panel session to discuss AFS Modernization was held on Tuesday afternoon.

I guess the most technological feature added this year was the web site. The primary purpose of the web site was to make information readily available to conference attendees so they could "study up" for the caucus sessions before coming to the conference. The web site is now being used to post conference feedback. (See next article.)

Thanks again for your support and participation at the AIRS Conference. Hope to see you next year in Saint Louis.

*

The 1998 AIRS/AFS Conference Web Site

- Chuck Isbell



In this age of making information available electronically, the World Wide Web has proved itself as an effective means of distributing information. This medium was chosen as the ideal method for preparing AFS participants for the AIRS Conference, since most people can access the Internet and browse the Web from their desktops.

The AIRS-AFS Conference web site became available a few weeks before the conference so participants could browse and download conference materials before arriving in San Francisco. It was built with the hope that attendees could be well prepared to discuss the topics of Modernization, Data Quality and Use, and Initiatives; making the conference time more productive for all. For each of these main conference themes, web pages were set up providing background information, discussion topics and goals. Hyperlinks to

'Supporting Documents' and/or pertinent web sites are supported for each theme. The web site also contains agenda, hotel and registration information.

In order to provide conference attendees with a summary of the caucus results, the AIRS Conference web site was recently updated to present the following AFS "Post Conference" materials:

- Comments/questions/answers from the AIRS Modernization panel
- EPA presentations at the AIRS Modernization panel
- Caucus Results (Data Quality and Data Use, and Initiatives) including results from the regional breakout sessions

We intend to update our AIRS Web site next year to include general AIRS Conference information (registration, hotel, etc.) and more detail information for both the AQS and AFS portions of the AIRS Conference (agendas, caucus/discussion topics, etc.)

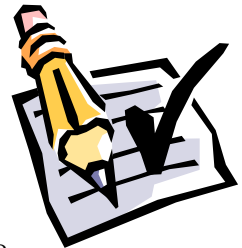
Note: We were unable to obtain results from all of the regional breakout sessions. The web site will be updated as results are obtained from conference attendees.

Please browse the web site at <http://www.epa.gov/airs/airsconf>.

*

The AFS Year 2000 Project is on Schedule

- Lillian Bradley



We are currently revising AFS so that it is Year 2000 compliant by the end of July 1998. Because re-engineering AFS solely to be compliant with the new EPA date standard is not cost-effective, we are implementing a simple interim solution to resolve the Year 2000 problem in AFS. The revised AFS will retain its current 2-digit year externally but internally recognize the new century to provide the proper date computation and sorting. New software will accomplish this by editing the 2-digit year to determine which century applies. The modified AFS software implements the following processing rule:

If the 2 digit year is greater than 50, assume the century is 19; otherwise, assume the century is 20. This is referred to as the '50' rule.

The '50' rule allows AFS to retain the 2-digit year on the internal database files, the online screens, and the Fixed Format and Ad Hoc reports. Batch transaction formats will remain the same. This will prevent States from having to modify their AFS converter software to support a 4-digit year format.

The project is proceeding on schedule and is expected to be completed on time. State and local agencies should continue to submit data to AFS in the same manner as they have done in the past. The software that we have developed will recognize and sort the data in the appropriate manner.

We are interested in identifying any impacts this approach may have on State and local agencies, particularly those agencies that have made format changes to their own systems to account for the Year 2000 problem. We are also interested in feedback from data analysts as to whether they anticipate any problems interfacing with outputs from AFS. Please feel free to contact me at 919-541-5694 or bradley.lillian@epa.gov.

*

AFS Training Update

- Lillian Bradley

OECA and IMG have been jointly sponsoring comprehensive 3-day AFS training sessions in those Regions requesting it. To date training sessions have been held in Regions 6 and 7. Training is currently being scheduled for Regions 1, 2 and 9. Those interested in attending these sessions should contact the Regional compliance manager for details.

Training sessions are customized to the needs of a particular Region. Sessions include lecture as well as hands-on portions. Both emissions and compliance are covered as well as batch, permits, and MACT. Ad hoc reports and special utilities are addressed, also. Please feel free to contact me at (919) 541-5694 or at bradley.lillian@epa.gov.

*

Improving Significant Violator Reporting

- Mark Antell

A comprehensive package was sent to the Regions requesting their assistance in our continuing effort to evaluate and address possible underreporting and non-reporting of Significant Violators (SVs) under the Clean Air Act (CAA). Each Region was provided with a separate analysis based on AIRS data for each of their States showing the number of CAA major sources inspected and the number of new SVs identified from FY 1993 through FY 1997. Also included were tables, graphs and trend analyses. Based on this data, a number of possible reporting problems in particular States were noted. Regions will review this package and provide HQ with a State-by-State evaluation of the air SV identification and reporting program.

(CONTACTS: EPA Regional AIRS Compliance Managers. HQ contact is David Sprague, 202/5644103)

*



Office of Compliance Developing Information Collection Request to OMB

- Mark Antell

The Office of Compliance (OC) is developing an Information Collection Request (ICR) for a mid-July submittal to the President's Office of Management and Budget. ICRs must be submitted to OMB every three years by Federal agencies for programs that mandate the reporting of data to the agency by State or other delegated agencies.

The ICR contains basic information about the necessity of the data collection program, including a description of the need for the data and its ultimate use. For the OC submittal, this includes a description of the data management requirements defined by the Clean Air Act and the uses for data submitted on major and synthetic minor point sources maintained in AFS.

Of particular emphasis in the ICR is an estimation of the labor burden and associated costs for the transmittal and quality assurance of Mandatory Data Requirements (MDRs) elements submitted to AFS by State and local agencies. These estimated cost data are then compared to previous ICR data to demonstrate either an increase, decrease or no change in the total "burden" associated with the data submittal requirements. The

methodology used in the burden estimate calculation includes dividing 50 State agencies (plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico) into three size categories based on the number of AFS Federally reportable sources each maintains in AFS: "small" (0-400 sources), "medium" (401-900 sources), and "large" (900+ sources). Telephone interviews were then conducted with four agencies from each size category, and a labor estimate for each agency's submittal and QA of MDR data to AFS was developed. The average labor estimate for each size category was then calculated and multiplied by the number of agencies in the size category. For the 1998 ICR, the AFS agency community totals were 21 small, 15 medium and 16 large states.

The total State cost burden estimate for the 1998 ICR was \$910,000 with the total State and EPA Headquarters program requiring \$1.8 million. This total is a 30% decrease in overall labor cost when compared to the 1995 ICR. The reasons for change include:



- Reporting technology has improved: Powerful personal computers are now used to facilitate conversion of data from State systems to a format compatible with AFS. Another technology improvement is the development of faster modems to allow expedited transmission of large quantities of data from State systems to AFS.
- AFS software has improved: In particular, batch update of data was revised to allow for easier modification and quality assurance of State data through more effective processing streams and editing reports. Overall quality assurance time is reduced from the ability to "jump" from on-line and browse data screens and the development of better edit reports.
- EPA Guidance has been adopted by more states: EPA guidance pertaining to the tracking of enforcement and compliance data has become more widely accepted by states as models for their own programs, including the tracking of violations. For those states that have adopted EPA standards for data hierarchy and reporting and included them either within their own data systems or use of AFS as a tool for their own state programs, the effort associated with transmitting Federally reportable data has been substantially reduced. These states have already collected these data for their local use and are no longer reporting data that previously were of interest only to EPA.
- Reporting requirements have been cut. Inspection targeting data is no longer required as part of the MDR's.
- Development of the Universal Interface (UI): EPA has developed and promulgated the UI software package, which facilitates the transmittal, editing and overall quality assurance of data submitted by States from their state systems to AFS. The UI significantly reduces the time required for formatting, editing, generating batch data files and quality reviewing these data when compared with the effort required from those states using their previous data transmittal methodology.

AFS users interested in obtaining a copy of the ICR materials should contact Mark Antell at (212) 564-5003 or antell.mark@epa.gov.

*

Universal Compliance Interface System Update

- Mark Antell

The Universal Interface (UI) made a formal public appearance at the AIRS '98 Conference in April. The system was available for hands-on demonstrations throughout the conference, converting air compliance data into AFS format transactions for the interested, the curious, and the unbelieving. Notice I didn't mention the uninformed. I'm hoping we've been somewhat successful in getting the word out about the UI (refer to AIRSLetters Fall and Winter '97 for explanations on the UI and how it can save time and money). But, in case you haven't heard or weren't able to test drive the UI at the conference, I'm going to restate some of the UI's selling points:

First, *the UI is being offered to agencies at no cost.* OECA sponsored development of the UI to facilitate the reporting of mandatory compliance and enforcement data to the USEPA. The UI functions as a bridge between an agency's data and AFS by accepting agency data, providing editing specific to an agency's locale, and generating transactions suitable for AFS batch submission. An initial investment of time is required to create the ascii files for the UI.

Secondly, the UI operates on a local PC; it will edit volumes of data immediately. *The complex data and relational edits performed by AFS are already in place;* the UI will accept data and provide quality checks before file uploads are performed.

And, finally, should there be any future changes to the AFS transaction formats, *headquarters will assume responsibility for the enhancements.*

If your current process for reporting state information system compliance data isn't satisfactory, why not take a look at what the UI can offer? Contact your Regional AFS Compliance Manager and ask for further documentation. Oklahoma adopted UI and is now uploading AFS data into production!

*

It's Summer....Do You Know Where Your 1996 PEI Is?

- Lee Tooly



In July of last summer, the EFIG distributed guidance discussing the preparation and submittal of the 1996 Periodic Emission Inventory (PEI). In that guidance, it was requested that the 1996 PEI data be submitted electronically to EPA in July 1998. The Clean Air Act requires that state and local agencies prepare PEIs every three years for specific ozone and carbon monoxide nonattainment areas. Beginning with the 1990 base year inventory, PEIs should be developed for 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, etc. The EPA Regional Offices are working with their State/ local agencies to determine the regulatory significance of the 1996 PEI, in each case. The purpose of the PEIs include tracking emissions relative to reasonable further progress (RFP) requirements, e.g., VOC reductions. The 1996 PEI may also be especially important for those areas that opt-in to the transitional nonattainment status under the new ozone NAAQS.

In addition to the guidance distributed last summer, the EFIG also distributed for each State, their portion of the EPA National Emission Trends (NET) inventory data for 1996. The NET inventory is developed by

EFIG and includes data for most criteria pollutants, for each county in a State, e.g., nonattainment area(s), as well as the rest of the State. The State/ local agencies were asked to review and confirm, or correct if necessary, the EPA's national emission inventory data. The EFIG's 1996 NET inventory data was distributed to the State/ local agencies to help initiate the development of their 1996 PEI.

As described in the PEI Guidance, and now updated on the EPA's 1996 PEI Web site, there are several data transfer options available to State/ local agencies for submitting their 1996 PEI data electronically to EPA. The most likely data transfer options at this point in time are: the AIRS/AFS (for point sources only); the EPA's new NET input format; and the NET text overwrite file for the 1996 data as provided by EPA. The EIIP/EDI standard format is another option, and could continue to be an option for the future if State/local agencies become familiar and want to use the standardized. Electronic Data Interchange transfer procedure. (Please see the PEI Guidance, Chapters 2-3 and PEI Web site for a more complete description of each data transfer format.)

The EFIG is currently prepared to accept any of the data transfer options as described for the 1996 PEI data submittal. It is anticipated at this time that most State/local agencies will submit their point source data by AIRS/AFS or the NET Input Format, and their area, mobile, and biogenic source data using the NET Input Format. (Please refer to the EPA's 1996 PEI Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/efig/ei> for information and updates on the development of the NET Input Format.)

*

EIIP Subcommittee Looks to Revamp SCC Codes

- Ron Ryan

The objective of the EIIP Emission Inventory Coding Subcommittee (EICS) is to evaluate a potential major revamping of the Source Classification Codes (SCC) used in air emissions inventories. SCCs are used to prepare and summarize annual emissions data, and they also provide the necessary links to the chemical speciation and temporal allocation tables that allow modeling inventories to be prepared. For point sources, SCCs are currently made up of eight digits divided into four groupings (x-xx-xxx-xx).



Due to the expansion of emission inventories to cover a wider scope of both pollutants and source types, and to the demand to codify an increasing variety of information about a source within the SCC, both the point and area source classification systems have not always provided a good solution to the new demands. The EIC subcommittee will be identifying the types of information that are necessary to an emission inventory and that should be standardized or grouped by a code. The subcommittee will also be identifying the level in an emission inventory system where each type of coded information should reside. Thus, the detailed information embedded in some of the current codes which provides information about the entire facility or emitting equipment - rather than process-level information - could become a separate code specified at a different level in the emissions inventory. The EIC subcommittee is not restricted to addressing just the process-level (SCC) data coding needs, and is therefore identifying data coding needs at the facility, device, and emissions levels as well.

A web page (www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/eiip/eic_sub.htm) has been created to disseminate information on the proposals of the subcommittee, or you can contact Ron Ryan of EPA at (919) 541-4330 or at ryan.ron@epa.gov.

*

Summer Emission Inventory Workshop Planned

- Steve Bromberg

The second in a series of summer emission inventory workshops for State and Local air agencies and EPA is scheduled for August 18-19, 1998 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The first workshop, held last year in Durham, NC, focused on the 1996 Periodic Emission Inventory (PEI).

This year the concentration will be on emerging issues. While the agenda has not been finalized, topics will include PM-2.5, new ozone and PM NAAQS, NOx SIP call, Toxics, and data management. The format for the workshop will be presentations and interactive breakout groups.

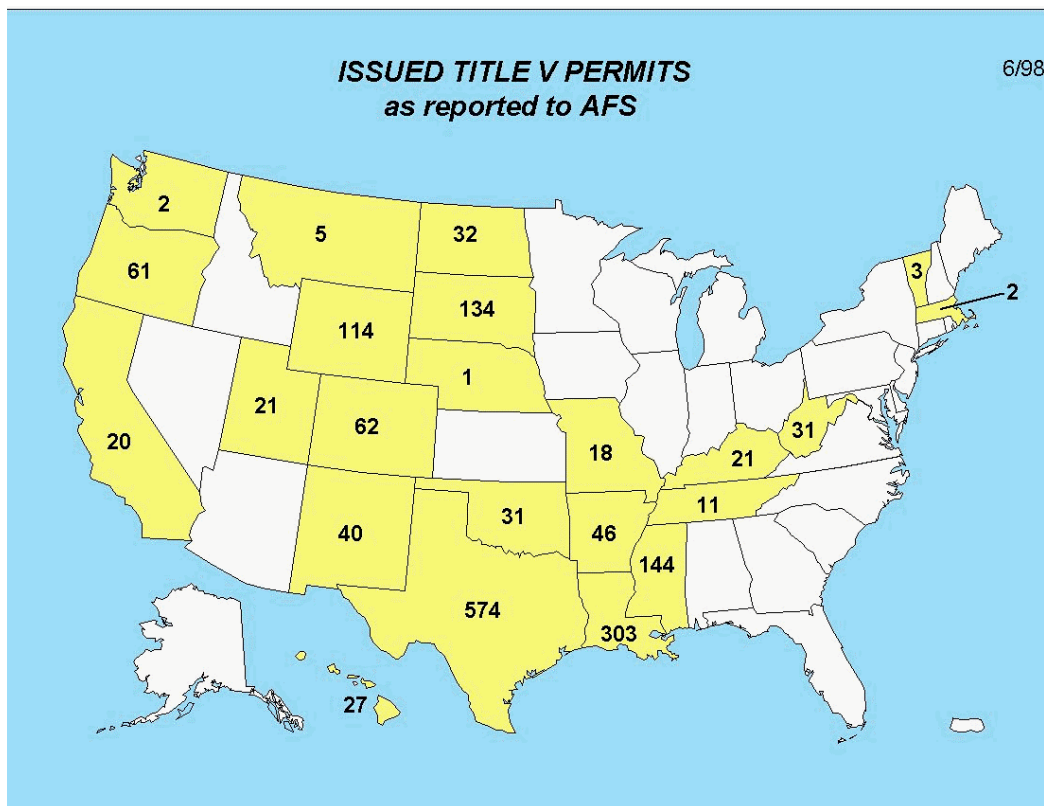
As soon as final arrangements have been made with the hotel, preliminary information will be sent to all who attended last year's workshop. Information will also be posted on the EFIG Web page and sent to subscribers of the CHIEF List Server. If you are a State, Local or EPA employee involved in the preparation of air emission inventories, make your plans now to attend this important meeting

*

Status of Title V Permit Issuance Reporting to AFS

- Bill Frietsche

The following figure illustrates the status of reported permit data in AFS as of June, 1998. Please work with us to get your permit data in if you haven't done so yet. You can call me at (919) 541-5451 or the AFS HelpLine at 1-800-367-1044. Thanks.



End of AFS section

Important Memos

During the past few months, a number of key memos were issued that affect AIRS in some way. The following were issued since the last AIRSLetter. Please review the titles and download those that are of interest to you.

May 12, 1998: "**PAMS Requirements for 'Bumped-Up' Areas** "

From: Bill Hunt

To: Regional AIRS Directors

April 23, 1998: "**Plans for Re-engineering the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS) Facility Subsystem** "

From: Tom Curran, Bill Hunt, Fred Stiehl

To: AFS Community

April 20, 1998: "**Aerometric Information retrieval system (AIRS) Year 2000 Projects** "

From: Ed Lillis

To: AIRS Community

April 2, 1998: "**PM2.5 Data Reporting to AQS** "

From: JAKE SUMMERS (Email)

To: All AQS Regional Contacts

